

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 01868 251103Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 OPR-02 /025 W
-----041331 251109Z /16

R 251025Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8728
INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS ALGIERS 1868

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, AG
SUBJECT: INCIDENT INVOLVING STAFF MEMBER

TUNIS FOR RSO

SUMMARY: SENIOR COMMUNICATOR MICHAEL SOARES' CAR WAS FOLLOWED
IN EARLY MORNING JUNE 16; HE WAS HARASSED AND FINALLY ATTACKED,
RESULTING IN MINOR INJURIES.

1. AFTER RETURNING HOME WITH HIS WIFE FROM PARTIES ON THE
EVENING OF JUNE 15-16, SENIOR COMMUNICATOR MICHAEL F. SOARES
DROVE BABYSITTER HOME ABOUT 1:30 A.M.
 2. RETURNING ALONG A SMALL SIDESTREET LEADING TO THE AVENUE ON
WHICH THE EMBASSY IS LOCATED, SOARES RECALLS A CAR BEHIND HIM
WITH HORN SOUNDING AND LIGHTS FLASHING, WHICH HE IGNORED. IT
WAS CLEARLY NOT A POLICE CAR.
 3. ON TURNING INTO THE LARGE AVENUE DRIVING TOWARD THE EMBASSY,
A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY, SOARES WAS COMPLETELY CUT OFF BY A GREEN
CAR WITH TWO PERSONS IN FRONT SEAT. SOARES STATES THAT HE
REVERSED HIS CAR, WHEREUPON THE GREEN CAR ALSO REVERSED.
HE WAS ABLE GET PAST THE OTHER CAR AND DROVE ON TOWARD
EMBASSY. KNOWING GATES WOULD BE LOCKED, INVOLVING SOME
DELAY WHILE WATCHMAN WOULD UNLOCK AND OPEN THEM, SOARES
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PASSED THE GATES AND HEADED FOR THE EMBASSY PARKING LOT
SLIGHTLY BEYOND AND ACROSS THE STREET. AS HE BEGAN
TURNING LEFT TO ENTER PARKING LOT HE BECAME AWARE OF A
VEHICLE ABOUT TO PASS HIM AND APPLIED BRAKES TO AVOID
AN ACCIDENT. THE ROAD WAS THEN UNDERGOING REPAIRS AND
REPAVEMENT AND SOARES' CAR SKIDDED ON THE LOOSE GRAVEL,
APPARENTLY WAS DEFLECTED BY SOME OBSTRUCTION RELATED TO

THE ROAD WORK AND SKIDDED TO THE RIGHT HITTING TWO TREES.
THE DAMAGE TO CAR WAS NOT SERIOUS AND SOARES WAS UNHURT.

4. WHEN THE CAR PASSED HIM SOARES DROVE BACK TO EMBASSY GATE AND SIGNED THE WATCHMAN. HE DID NOT WAIT FOR WATCHMAN TO OPEN GATE BUT LEFT CAR IN ORDER TO ENTER COMPOUND VIA DOORWAY IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO GATE. AS HE REACHED THE DOORWAY HE WAS GRABBED FROM BEHIND, KNOCKED DOWN AND KICKED. HE WAS HIT ON THE LEFT TEMPLE AND RECEIVED A CUT ON HIS UPPER LIP FROM BEING KICKED. HE EVENTUALLY LOST CONSCIOUSNESS.

5. THE WATCHMAN HELPED HIM UP AND SOARES ENTERED EMBASSY TO PHONE ADMIN OFFICER AND REPORT THE INCIDENT. THE AMBASSADOR WAS IN CHANCERY AT THE TIME AND SPOKE WITH SOARES, WHO WAS TAKEN DRIVEN HOME BY DUTY DRIVER. DCM VISITED SOARES IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER TO OBTAIN STATEMENT OF INCIDENT.

6. THE POLICE WERE NOTIFIED AND SOARES WAS RECALLED TO CHANCERY TO RECOUNT STORY TO THEM. DCM THEN TOOK SOARES TO MUSTAPHA HOSPITAL FOR EXAMINATION AND THEN PROCEEDED TO CENTRAL POLICE STATION TO FILE COMPLAINT.

7. OTHER THAN SOME SORENESS AND DAMAGE TO BRIDGEWORK AND GUMS, THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE FURTHER INDICATION OF UNCLASSIFIED

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INJURY.

8. EMBASSY WILL REPORT ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS MATTER.HAYNES

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